

THE SEMI-WEEKLY TELEGRAPH.

An eight-page paper and is published every Wednesday and Saturday at 11.00 a week in advance by the Telegraph Publishing Company, of St. John, a company incorporated by act of the Legislature of New Brunswick; Thomas Dunlop, Business Manager; James Hannay, Editor.

ADVERTISING RATES.

Ordinary commercial advertisements taking the run of the paper: Each insertion \$1.00 per line. Advertisements of Wines, For Sale, etc., 50 cents for each insertion of six lines or more. Notices of Births, Marriages and Deaths 25 cents for each insertion.

IMPORTANT NOTICE.

Owing to the considerable number of complaints as to the misarrangement of letters alleged to contain money remitted for this office, we have to request our subscribers and agents when sending money for the Telegraph to do so by post office order or registered letter, in which case the remittance will be at our risk.

FACTS FOR SUBSCRIBERS.

Without exception, names of new subscribers will be entered until the money is received. Subscribers will be required to pay for papers sent them, whether they take them from the office or not, until all arrears are paid. There is no legal discontinuance of a newspaper subscription until all that is owed for it is paid.

RULES FOR CORRESPONDENTS.

Be brief. Write plainly and take special pains with names. Write on one side of your paper only. Attach your name and address to your communication as an evidence of good faith. Write nothing for which you are not prepared to be held responsible.

AUTHORIZED AGENTS.

The following Agents are authorized to canvass and collect for the Semi-Weekly Telegraph, viz: T. W. Rainford, Allison Wishart, W. A. Ferris, Wm. Somerville.

MR. T. W. RAINFORD, Traveling Agent for the Daily and Semi-Weekly Telegraph is now in Restigouche County, N. B.

MR. ALLISON WISHART, Traveling Agent for the Daily and Weekly Telegraph is now going through Nova Scotia.

Subscribers are asked to pay their subscriptions to the agents when they call.

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CHINA.

The Chinese situation still continues obscure and it is not apparent that an agreement has been reached by the powers as to the future of China. The government of the United States has not advanced itself in the estimation of the European nations by its attitude on the Chinese question, but allowance perhaps ought to be made for the fact that President McKinley is about to run another presidential election, and that he does not desire to be responsible for any policy which seems likely to make it necessary to increase the military forces of the country. At the same time it is clear that the mercantile interests of the United States are very much opposed to a Chinese policy which is so weak that it is not likely to give them protection in their business with the flowery kingdom.

THE COAL STRIKE.

There seems to be an indication that the great strike which now affects the anthracite regions of Pennsylvania will soon come to an end. This will be good news to every person in St. John, because a great many of our people are depending for their fuel on that mining district, and should there be no coal available from it, they would be put to great loss and inconvenience as a consequence. The entire failure of the supply of anthracite would naturally increase the price of bituminous coal, because it would occasion a shortage in the present season. The lesson of the present strike ought to be that we should depend less on anthracite coal and more upon the coal mines of our own country. Our coal miners ought to increase their product very largely, because they can now find a market for all the coal they can produce. A few years ago it was otherwise, but now with the shortage of coal in the United States and the high price of coal in England there is no

danger of our mines being troubled with overproduction.

THE OUTLOOK.

No government ever went into an election campaign with better prospects of success than the present government of Canada. The majority which the government now has in the House of Commons is a very large one, being between fifty and sixty, but it looks as if this majority might be largely increased at the general election because of the great success of the government in administering public affairs. From the time that the Laurier government went into power Canada has progressed beyond all precedent. Her trade has increased upwards of 60 per cent., her revenue has increased in almost a proportionate degree and now the government is easily able to expend large sums on public works and improvements without adding to the burdens of the country or to its permanent debt. This is a condition of affairs which every good Canadian will wish to see continued, and which is the highest proof which can be furnished of the ability and skill with which the public affairs have been administered by Sir Wilfrid Laurier and his colleagues.

THE CONTEST IN CHARLOTTE.

The political demonstration which took place at St. Stephen on Friday last may be regarded as a happy augury of the strength of the Liberal cause in the impending contest. We are aware that the value and significance of a political gathering may easily be overestimated. Quite frequently the enthusiasm and activity may appear to be on the losing side. But it is scarcely possible that the meetings at St. Stephen misrepresented the state of public feeling in the district. In the first place, both the convening in the afternoon and the public meeting in the evening were attended by scores of men from the most remote parts of the county. Every parish was largely represented, and by men of influence and standing in the community. Many of them had made sacrifices to be present, and not only were they themselves filled with a warm and hearty interest in the Liberal cause, but they were able to speak with confidence of the feeling which prevails in their respective districts. That feeling seems to have crystallized itself into a resolute determination that the old county of Charlotte shall in the person of Mr. R. E. Armstrong again be represented by a Liberal in parliament, and when such an earnest purpose once takes possession of a people it never fails to bring success.

Too much importance seems to have been attached to Mr. Ganong's victory in 1898. That victory, let it be said, at once was due much more to circumstances and popular caprice than to settled change of political allegiance on the part of the great body of the electorate. Mr. Ganong had a majority of over 400; but that does not necessarily indicate an abiding condition of sentiment. Mr. Foster had a majority in York county in 1896 exceeding 1,000, and yet Mr. Foster knows so well the change that has come over York that he has not the remotest thought of contesting the county again, or of finding a substitute who would more than hope to save his deposit. Since 1896, Mr. Ganong has done nothing to strengthen his position with the voters of Charlotte. He has not been able to do anything towards meeting the natural and proper aspirations of his constituents for a share in the development which goes with the construction of useful public works, but has been compelled to stand idly by.

There is a thought right here which must be in the mind of every wide awake voter in that constituency. Mr. Ganong will be disposed to recognize the legitimate demands of Charlotte. Not only has he opposed the government in a general way, but he has at times betrayed a bitterness and animosity almost malignant in character. He has conspicuously identified himself with those unreasonable opponents of the government, who have done so much during the past two or three years to degrade our Canadian parliament, and he has only himself to blame if such tactics have lost for him some of the sympathy which he enjoyed in his initial campaign. Sir Louis Davies and Mr. Blair must have felt on Friday last that they were in the stronghold of their friends, for in the long history of Charlotte county never before was such a gathering of sturdy electors seen within its borders. Numbers, depth of interest and enthusiasm, combined to set the demonstration far ahead of all preceding meetings, and after listening to the instructive and stirring speeches of the two ministers every elector who came must have gone home with a strong conviction of the irrefragable claims of the present government for a renewal of popular support. Throughout the Dominion this is essentially a struggle in which the scriptural plan of overcoming evil with good will be demonstrated. No thoughtful man in those two great gatherings at St. Stephen on Friday last could have listened to the record of progress, of clear and capable administration, as presented by the two ministers without finding his judgment turned against the campaign of misrepresentation and slander which is being carried on by opponents of the government. Not one of those who heard the speeches could honestly say that this was a juncture at which Canada could afford to risk a change of administration. Every consideration of national and local inter-

ests points to the wisdom of preserving the conditions which have done so much to carry the Dominion by long strides forward and upward. And what the electors of Charlotte must have felt in this regard is the calm judgment of the Canadian people at large.

Mr. Armstrong the Liberals of Charlotte have a strong candidate. He is a man of irreproachable reputation, of undisturbed capacity and of excellent standing. He has the confidence of his political friends, and enjoys the esteem of even his opponents. Having regard to all the conditions, Mr. Armstrong's election would seem to be assured.

IMPERSONATION AT ELECTIONS.

There is no doubt that impersonation at elections is a serious offence which ought to be put an end to, but the presence of the Sun that this impersonation is being done by the Liberal party is altogether too absurd. Everyone who is familiar with elections in St. John knows that impersonation is and has always been one of the features of the Conservative campaign, so much so that the offence came to be looked upon as one to be laughed at rather than suppressed. At the general election of 1891 impersonation was used in this city to an enormous extent by the Tories and the boast was made that one person, a stranger in St. John, had voted no less than thirty-three times at the various polling places in this city for the Conservative candidate. It is ridiculous, therefore, for the Sun to be setting up the claim that impersonation is likely to be committed in the county of Queens by the Liberal party. The fact of the matter is that Major Markham, who was at one of the Kings county polling places, was so ill-qualified for his task, owing to his lack of knowledge of the individuals who came to vote, that he allowed several persons who came to vote for Mr. Sprout. Mr. Sprout was no more fortunate in his challenges, for he challenged one of the most respectable citizens of St. John, a man of wealth and character, the brother of one of the opposition members of the House of Assembly, and one who had intended to vote and probably did vote for Mr. Sprout himself. We have no doubt that the greater part of the men who were challenged and prevented from voting at the Rotheray polling place were persons who intended to vote the Conservative ticket.

OUR MILITIA.

Sir O'Grady Kelly, the commander of the militia of Canada, has a high opinion of our soldier boys and has been greatly impressed with the raw material which the militia have supplied for the making of troops of the best quality. He, however, thinks that the period of training for the militia ought to be increased from twelve days to sixteen, and no doubt he is right in respect to this. But twelve days is as much time as most of our militia men can afford to go to camps of instruction, and therefore an increase in the length of time would probably be unfavorable to the recruiting of the regiments to their proper strength. We believe that it is much better to have a large body of half trained men than a small body of men who are somewhat better trained, because in a case of emergency our half trained men would soon be made efficient and numbers must always count. Our soldier boys who went to South Africa were in most cases only half trained, yet they made themselves equal to any soldiers of the line in point of general efficiency, their intelligence and readiness to adapt themselves to circumstances making them very superior to the average Tommy Atkins.

SOUTH AFRICA.

Our young soldiers who are returning from South Africa are unanimous in their opinion that that country is not to be compared to Canada in any respect. This is in accordance with our suggestion that the whole of South Africa, leaving out account the mining regions, was not of as much value as the single province of New Brunswick. It is almost a pity that so many lives should have been lost in fighting for a country that is so unprofitable, but possibly in the distant future something may be done to ameliorate the conditions in South Africa and to make it less like a desert. There is no doubt that the northern portion of it is much the best, and that there may be opportunities of settlement, but in the southern parts the lack of water and the rocky character of the soil are extremely unfavorable to agriculture.

THE KINGS COUNTY ELECTION.

The Sun is in very low spirits over the election which took place in Kings county on Thursday, and struggles hard to make excuses for its defeated candidate. The pretense that Mr. Sprout was not the nominee of the Liberal-Conservative party will not go down with those who know the manner in which the campaign was conducted. Mr. Sprout was just as much the nominee of the party as if a convention had been held, and he received the entire support of the party organization. We have no doubt that Mr. Sprout polled quite as large a vote as any other Conservative would have done had he been nominated. But the people of Kings county are tired of the manoeuvring of the Conservative party and they therefore sat down heavily on the candidate who attempted to defeat the able and general of the province and to deprive the county of Kings of the honor of being represented by so eminent a man.

THE COMMAND OF THE ARMY.

The appointment of Lord Roberts to the office of the commander-in-chief of the British army is one which will be approved of by the vast majority of his countrymen, who believe him to be the best fitted to occupy that important office. Coming upon his sixty-eighth birthday it is a handsome recognition, not only of his great ability, but also of his capacity for active work at a time of life when many men are practically laid upon the shelf. The change in the command of the army will no doubt have important consequences, and lead to reforms of a drastic nature, because the experience of the past year seems to show that in many respects the British army requires amendment. Lord Wolseley, who has held the chief command of the British army for some years, is himself a reformer, but he has never been a popular man, and he has been regarded with disfavor by many of the officers of the army, especially by those who think that the old methods are to be discarded. It is not to be discredited to Lord Wolseley to say that he has not succeeded in accomplishing all that he wished, because he has had to face much opposition, and no reformer ever succeeds in bringing about all the reforms that he desires at a single effort. Lord Roberts, following after Lord Wolseley and with a much greater share of popularity, will be able to accomplish results which his predecessor could not achieve, and he will have the confidence of all the high officers of the army which his predecessor never had. The British army needs reforms of a very fundamental nature before it can be said to be thoroughly fit for the work required of it. No man of course can object to the quality of the British troops, or the courage of the officers that lead them, but the qualities which the British possess as soldiers have frequently led them into difficulties and caused them to suffer losses which other armies would not have sustained. What is needed is the evacuation of a stronger military spirit among the officers, and greater attention to their duties. When a man puts on the uniform of an officer of the British army he ought to be made to understand that he is a soldier and nothing else, and that the strictest attention to his military duties will be required of him. His pay ought to be raised to such a figure that it will be sufficient to support him without requiring him to draw upon the funds of his relations at home, because under a system which makes living in the army, especially in some regiments of it, so expensive, there is no room except for the sons of rich men, and the sons of rich men are limited in number, so that the field from which to draw officers for those regiments is circumscribed. Much greater encouragement ought to be given to men who rise from the ranks and they ought not to be treated as inferiors. They should be looked upon as the equals of those who are better born, and who have had greater opportunities, because a man can only rise from the ranks by the exercise of some notable qualities of ability and courage. It has always been conceded that the non-commissioned officers of the British army, the experienced sergeants who have fought in many campaigns and who know the men thoroughly, have been the backbone of the regiments, and by their courage and conduct have given their character and standing among their fellows. These men should be encouraged in every way to fit themselves for such positions.

The greatest need of all, however, is a spirit of reform which will be on the lookout for merit wherever it is to be found, whether in the person of a promising young soldier or in a weapon which will give the army a superiority over others. Up to the present time the British army has been most conservative in the adoption of new weapons. It is only with the greatest difficulty that the war office authorities have been induced to give a trial to modern arms of precision. Just before the Crimean War all the British troops were armed with the old smooth bore musket, an arm which was not reliable at a distance of more than one hundred yards. Just on the eve of that great contest a few regiments had been armed with the Minnie rifle, and in the course of a short time improved arms were provided for all the soldiers. The British war office authorities were well aware prior to 1856 that the Prussians had provided themselves with a breech-loading rifle, but no effort was made to obtain such a weapon for the British army, and after Sadova, the people of the British islands fell into a wild panic, simply because the men at the head of the army had another nation steel and had let men of another nation steal a march on them. Then came the period of the converted Snider-Enfield, with which we are all familiar, and this was followed by the introduction of the Martini-Henry. It was not until every other nation had provided itself with a magazine rifle that the British war office consented to adopt the Lee-Metford, which is now the weapon of the British army.

In respect to field guns the record of the British war office is even worse than it is with regard to rifles. Millions have been wasted on the manufacturing of weapons which are now of no value whatever. Forty years ago the British army had the Armstrong breech-loading field gun, a weapon which was capable of doing

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YOUR MONEY BACK IF DISSATISFIED.

GREATER OAK HALL, SCOVIL BROS. & CO.,

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and was never regarded by the Conservative members as a possible leader. He tired of the whirl and the strenuous conditions of busy political life, and returned to the practice of his profession. At fifty years of age he returns with acclamations in his ears as the only hope of his party. It is very surprising. On a close examination of himself he finds no justification for it. At the Montreal meeting he was greeted with cheers, and in a limp and apologetic manner he puts the cheers away from him as being only intended for him because he is his father's son. He sees that in the long run he will have to rough it with the others in the House of Commons, and that if he cannot measure up to the requirements of his position he will have to lay down his splendid career. The Conservative party is leaderless unless Hugh John Macdonald is a leader by virtue of his own merits. Until that is established no amount of speaking by him under the shadow of his father's statue in Windsor square will lift up the spirits of the Conservative party.

A TUPPER FALSEHOOD.

In his speech at Stratford the other day Sir Charles Tupper insinuated that half a million dollars of American money had been contributed to the Liberal election fund. This is so glaring a falsehood it is surprising that Sir Charles Tupper, steeped as he is in partisanship, should have attempted to impose it upon a Canadian audience. What American party would be likely to assist the Liberals of this country to continue in power? Is it not a fact that the present Liberal government has given a preference to British goods, and has thereby diminished the sale of American goods in Canadian markets; while on the other hand the policy of the Tory party from 1873 onward was to give a preference to American goods over British goods, and this preference was so great that British trade steadily declined while American trade steadily increased? Now Sir Charles Tupper avows his intention of abolishing the preference which Great Britain now receives in the Canadian market. Is not this a condition of affairs which every American merchant devoutly wishes for, and therefore, if the Americans are about to contribute money to a Canadian election fund would they not rather contribute it to Sir Charles Tupper, who favors them, than to Sir Wilfrid Laurier, who opposes them? We are not, however, accusing Sir Charles Tupper of being in receipt of any American money, because the Americans are not such fools as to invest their money in the fortunes of the Tory party at the present time. Toryism in Canada under Sir Charles Tupper has sunk to so low a place that to invest

TORY DISUNION.

Although on the eve of the election an attempt is being made to ignore and gloss over the spirit of disunion which prevails in the Tory party among its leaders, there is no denying the fact that the party is now in a very disorganized condition. It is true that Sir Charles Tupper, the present leader of the opposition, Hugh John Macdonald, the future leader of the opposition, and Mr. George E. Foster, who desires to be leader, so far reconciled their differences as to appear upon the same platform together in Montreal. But, as the Montreal Herald says, they could not induce Sir Adolphe Curran to go on the same platform with Mr. Bergeron and Mr. Casgrain nor could they induce Mr. Taitou to speak from the same platform. Neither have they been able to persuade Sir Macdonald, the late premier, to become reconciled to Sir Charles Tupper and Mr. Foster, or to modify the language which he used in regard to the latter when he denounced him as a traitor. Then there is Mr. McLean, who is at feud with the Toronto Mail, and who has denounced that paper as a subsidized Yankee sheet. All these elements of discord and many others which might be named, exist in the Tory party and prevent it from doing efficient work.

COMING HOME.

Five hundred of the soldier boys of Canada are now on the sea on their way home from South Africa. A little less than a year ago they took their departure from among us, a gallant band full of hope and strength and vigor, and prepared to meet the enemies of Great Britain in any part of the world. Now they are returning home, having seen service, encountered hardships, suffered from wounds, from disease and from the various accidents of war, while more than one hundred of them are lying beneath the soil of South Africa. When our soldier boys come back to us the people of Canada will give them the heartiest kind of a reception. There will be nothing too good for them here, for every citizen will think it his duty to do them honor. We will be glad to have them back with us again, after having passed through so much hardship and suffering, and many a mother's heart will rejoice when she sees her gallant son return safe from the dangers of one of the most arduous campaigns in which British troops ever engaged. All honor to the soldier boys of Canada, they have done their duty nobly and their reward should be noble.